



MANOA NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 7

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2006

NOELANI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA

CALL TO ORDER: Second Vice Chair Chuck Pearson called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. without a quorum present. At this time, Second Vice Chair Pearson introduced the members of the Board as well as the guests in attendance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: George Nakano, Salvatore Lanzilotti, Hank Chapin, Paul Holtrop, Jeff McNeill, Chuck Pearson, and Milton Ragsdale.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Nadine Nishioka, Jim Harwood, Brian Kessler, Gary Andersen, Dwight Jackson

GUESTS: Poni Daines (Senator Taniguchi's Office staff); Jim Manke (University of Hawaii Manoa); Larry Reifurth (Governor's Representative); Councilmember Ann Kobayashi; Capt. Pablo (Honolulu Fire Department); Lt. Ahlo, Officer Min (Honolulu Police Department); Tom Heinrich, Bob Farrell, Ivonne Cardenas (Makakilo.com); Pat Lee and Gary Omori (Consultants for Honolulu Alternative Mass Transit); Sharon Dumas, Chris McCormick, Ross Kamakahi, Joey Manahan (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

PUBLIC SAFETY INPUT:

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT (HFD) – Capt. Pablo distributed his report and highlighted the following:

1. Statistics for the month of April include one vehicle fire, 24 medical responses, one search and rescue, a lost hiker at Manoa Falls, and 10 miscellaneous calls.
2. Community Relations

Fire Safety Tip: Prepare a fire escape plan. Map out escape routes with at least two ways out of each room. Designate a location outside of the house where everyone can meet. Know where the closest phone is located to call 911.

Second Vice Chair Pearson thanked Captain Pablo for attending the meeting.

The agenda was taken out of order at this time.

BOARD OPEN FORUM:

1. Member Hank Chapin noted that the Board was fully represented by its members from subdistrict one.
2. Member Nakano was looking forward to address changes to the March minutes, but without a quorum present, it would not be possible to do so this time. Nakano noted that his changes were submitted to the Neighborhood Assistant and he hopes that these changes will be incorporated into the minutes.

FILLING OF BAORD VACANCIES -- The item was deferred due to lack of quorum at this time, however Ross Kamakahi introduced himself and expressed his interest in filling a vacancy in subdistrict 4.

COMMUNITY INPUT:

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII – Jim Manke, from the Chancellor's Office at the University of Hawaii Manoa (UHM) distributed information on upcoming summer programs and events at UHM and highlighted the following:

1. UHM is coming to the end of its school year, and commencement ceremonies are scheduled for Mother's Day, May 14. Increased traffic is expected, on this day, however a reprieve in traffic congestion is expected in the summer months.
2. Summer session begins on May 22. A schedule of events was distributed and most events are free and open to the public.
2. A portion of the music building complex at the corner of Dole and University Avenue was renamed to honor Barbara Smith, a Manoa faculty member who came to UH in 1949, and who is still with us, though she retired 25 years ago. Her specialty is music of Asia and the Pacific, under the broader term, "ethnomusicology."
3. At a ceremony this Friday, the College of Education building complex at the corner of Metcalf and University known as Wist Annex 2 will be renamed to honor former professor and dean of College, Hu Everly. Hu came to UH in the 1930's and has been active with the Department of Education (DOE) in schools on the Big Island and Kalihi. (In both cases, naming these structures was approved by the Board of Regents (BOR) under a revised policy that allows structures to be named after persons who are still living.
4. Two stone structures on Bachman Hall were built with the University's permission by Hawaiian groups who came to protest that a UH researcher holds the patents on some varieties of taro. The Hawaiian groups plan to move the structure from the lawn into the courtyard once the courtyard's renovation is completed in August of this year.
5. Vice Chair Harwood requested information on the bike plan for the Manoa campus. A response was emailed and Mr. Manke is waiting for the chair's advice to place the item on the agenda for a subsequent meeting of the Board.
6. Negotiations with the Navy are continuing on a contract to establish the proposed University Affiliated Research Center (UARC). The BOR will not be able to review the matter until July.

Second Vice Chair Pearson thanked Mr. Manke for attending the meeting.

Councilmember Ann Kobayashi and Member Salvatore Lanzilotti arrived at this time.

COUNCILMEMBER ANN KOBAYASHI – Councilmember Kobayashi distributed her report and highlighted the following:

1. Last month, State and City officials held a public meeting to discuss flooding issues. Early this month, George W. Bush sent a letter to the Governor declaring a major disaster for the State. This follows a declaration made by the Mayor, which declares Honolulu as a major disaster. As a result, tax relief is available for those whose homes or property experienced structural damage, and that the cost for these damages could be deducted from the value of your home. The City's Real Property Tax Division has also set up a schedule to be formalized by June 7, which will deduct damages from homes.
2. The budget committee approved \$250 million for capital improvement projects (CIP) for drainage improvements, stream maintenance, and other flood mitigation projects. The necessary appropriation for flood mitigation and badly needed sewer improvements, however, are expected to increase the City's debt service.

Questions, answers, and comments:

1. In response to member Chapin's question regarding the State and City's flood mitigation efforts, park improvements are in the works along with cleaning the drains in Manoa and other low-lying areas.
2. Member Lanzilotti asked about appropriations made by the Council and how core city services and improvement projects are prioritized based on these appropriations. Councilmember

Kobayashi replied that appropriated funds are not always spent on intended projects. Member Lanzilotti suggested that a system should be developed to measure how appropriations are spent to ensure that they are spent as intended. Kobayashi assured that the current administration is prioritizing these projects, which have been neglected by previous administrations, and assures that fee increases to pay for core city services is being spent correctly by the current administration. Kobayashi stated that there is currently a schedule for sewer and road maintenance projects.

3. Vice Chair Pearson stated that each department has a program for these projects that are prioritized by each department based on the criteria they have set.
4. Member Nakano stated that fee increases are justified as long as the money is spent on its intended purpose. Nakano raised concerns regarding fee increases and appropriations that are not being spent for their intended purpose. Nakano suggested that money not being spent on its intended purpose is fraudulent.
5. Member Ragsdale noted that some people get upset when work is being done especially in high traffic areas. He expressed his disappointment with projects that are being postponed especially if they are badly needed improvements. Councilmember Kobayashi stated that currently, the departments are working to address high priority projects such as the Beachwalk bypass in Waikiki.
6. Member McNeill commented on the property relief schedule and inquired if the assessment is takes into consideration the value of improvements done to the property prior to it being damaged. McNeill also inquired if the cost of planning and permitting is taken into consideration. Councilmember Kobayashi was not sure at this time and told member McNeill she would follow up.
7. In response to second Vice Chair Pearson's question regarding projected income and projected spending for the City, Councilmember Kobayashi replied that pursuant to bill 12, the City will only collect what it needs to operate. The projected spending for this fiscal year is 1.4 billion plus debt services.
8. In response to member Chapin's question regarding the Council and the current administration's position on homeless issues, Kobayashi replied that this is primarily a State issue, however, there have been compliments on the City's efforts to address the issue as well as much needed maintenance of Ala Moana Park. The Mayor did make temporary provisions for the homeless across HPD headquarters, but a more permanent solution is needed to address this issue.

Second Vice Chair Pearson thanked Councilmember Kobayashi for attending the meeting.

SENATOR BRIAN TANIGUCHI – Poni Danes distributed the Senator's report and was available for questions.

REPRESENTATIVE KIRK CALDWELL – Representative Kirk Caldwell's report was distributed.

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT (HPD) –Officer Min distributed the monthly statistics and reported the following:

1. Beat 750 saw an increase in burglaries for the month of March. Thefts remained the same and unauthorized entries into a motor vehicle (UEMV's) decreased last month.
2. Beat 751 showed no changes in burglaries and thefts last month, and UEMV's decreased.
3. Beat 752 saw a decrease in burglaries, but thefts and UEMV's increased last month.

Second Vice Chair Pearson thanked HPD for attending the meeting.

MALAMA O MANOA— Second Vice Chair Pearson reported the following:

1. The Planning Committee of the Manoa Neighborhood Board will introduce a resolution regarding Paradise Park. Due to lack of quorum, there was no discussion regarding the resolution at this time.
2. The State has appropriated \$3 million for work on Lyon's Arboretum.

TRANSIT CORRIDOR—Pat Lee and Gary Omori, independent consultants for Parsons Brickenhoff distributed a pamphlet with information regarding the alternative mass transit system containing updates on the transit corridor. They would like to present project schedules at future meetings and give the Board updates on the project. For more information please visit www.honolulutransit.org.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Treasurer Paul Holtrop reported the following:

1. Noted that the Neighborhood Assistant (NA) reissued the March treasurer's report with corrections Treasurer Holtrop and reported the following: a) \$1520.00 was appropriated in fiscal year 2006. \$769.38 remained at the beginning of March. \$219.03 was spent in March on printing agendas and minutes as well as photocopying for both regular and committee meetings. Current balance in the operating account is \$531.59. b) In the publicity account, \$1471.00 was appropriated. In the previous month \$208.33 was spent. The current balance in the publicity account is \$596.01. c) In the refreshment account, there is \$120.00 that does not reflect the expenditures from last month.
2. For the month of April a) \$42.90 was spent in April for printing agendas and minutes. The current balance in the operating account is \$488.69. b) \$208.33 was spent last month. The account currently has \$387.68.
3. Second Vice Chair Pearson hopes that these meetings will be publicized by featuring an issue or event each month and by posting signs to indicate what the topic of the meeting will be.

Second Vice Chair Pearson thanked Holtrop for his report.

MAYOR'S REPRESENTATIVE—Hubert Minn, Deputy Director, Customer Services Department, was unable to attend the meeting. Mayor Hannemann's newsletter was distributed and Minn's report was submitted to the Second Vice Chair Pearson:

1. The Department of Transportation Services (DTS) prioritizes projects as follows: Projects are scored by City planners to address either facility deficiencies, new services or community support requirements. The projects are then reviewed and validated through each of the respective departments and inserted into the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Budget. Generally, for DTS, projects are recommended to the Administration and the City Council for consideration based on regulatory, life safety, and traffic circulation considerations. DTS is committed to fulfilling its mission and responsibility for efficient, safe and expeditious movement of traffic on all city streets and roadways and for the planning and coordination of public mass transportation systems and facilities throughout Oahu. Major thoroughfares are the first priority. Other roadways are then scheduled by areas based on the number of requests received and/or severity of the pothole. In all of this consideration is also given to try and provide all areas with as equal coverage as possible.
2. In response to Bob Farrell's question, the City does not sell or have plans to sell recycled products. However, the City does support and promote recycled products. You can find recycled products, which are made here in the islands, on our website at www.opala.org. The City purchases only recycled paper for use by City agencies, including paper towels, toilet tissue, copy paper, printing paper and paper products. The City requires 10% crushed glass in all asphalt treated base (ATB). "Glasphalt" has also been used to pave walkways at the Honolulu Zoo. Free mulch is made available at sites around the island. The higher value compost is sold at local garden shops under the brand name Menehune Magic. The City purchases recycled products for education and promotion, including recycled pencils, recycled shoelaces and recycled tote bags. These are given away to schools, at events such as the

Discover Recycling Fair and Tour de Trash. If others are interested in purchasing or finding vendor information for recycled products, the City's Recycling Office could assist - 692-5410.

3. In response to Member Andersen's question to the Neighborhood Commission Office (NCO) regarding the Board requiring a recording secretary in order for the meetings to be considered valid, section 4-5.1 of the Revised Neighborhood Plan (RNP) is clear that there shall be a chair, a vice chair and a recording secretary and any other officers the board feels is necessary to conduct board business. It does not preclude the board from having two vice chairs, nor does it preclude the chair from calling a meeting to order, whether or not other officers are present, as long as the board has quorum.

Section 4-5.2.a.13 does require the board to appoint a temporary recording secretary in the absence of the recording secretary. We have asked Corporation Counsel to opine whether or not this is necessary if the Neighborhood Assistant is present to record the minutes.

The RNP is also clear (Section 4-5.2.a) that the recording secretary shall act as the chair in the absence of the chair and vice chair. We have also asked Corporation Counsel to opine on whether or not this prevails if the board has voted to have a second vice chair (who would normally assume the chair position in the absence of the chair and first vice chair.)"

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Second Vice Chair Pearson introduced a letter he would like to send to Jan Yokota, which acknowledges the Frear Hall presentation made to the Board in February of this year. There was some concern from the members regarding the wording of the letter, since it may be viewed by some as a letter of endorsement from the Board of the proposed Frear Hall renovations.
2. Member Jeff McNeill raised concerns regarding current plans to renovate Frear Hall especially with regards to adequate planning for the number of students that the developers and UHM is projecting.
3. Members Lanzilotti and McNeill were opposed to the wording of the letter.
4. The NA warned that this is a possible action item that the Board may have to take action on in the future, and that the issue should be placed on the agenda and discussed at a future meeting of the Board when there is a quorum.
5. Member Nakano would like representatives from the University to come back and report the latest on the Dole Street construction project for the new residence hall.

ADJOURNMENT:

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Submitted by:

Joey Manahan, Neighborhood Assistant